

**TRI-BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, FINANCE COMMITTEE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

---

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Selectmen Chairman Brian Major called the Tri-Board meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Major-Y, Selectman Vispoli-Y, Selectman Lyman-Y, and Selectman Stabile-Y. Finance Committee: Chair Joanne F. Marden-Y, and members Margaret M. Bradshaw-Y, Harold J. Wright-Y, Richard T. Howe-Y, Mark Merritt-Y, Mary O'Donoghue -Y, Cynthia Milne-Y, Jon Stumpf-Y and Tim Felter-Y. School Committee Chair Arthur Barber- Y and members Debra Silberstein-Y, Anthony James-Y, Richard Collins-Y and Dr. David Samuels-Y. Also present were: Town Manager Reginald S. Stapczynski, Assistant Town Manager Steven S. Bucuzzo, Finance Director Anthony J. Torrisi, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Claudia Bach and Bernie Tuttle, Interim Business Manager. The meeting was duly posted and cablecast live.

**II. Opening Ceremonies**

Chairman Major led the meeting in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. FY-2009 Recommended Budgets**

**FY2009 Town Budget Presentation**

Town Manager Stapczynski presented his FY-2009 Town Manager's Recommended Budget to the Tri-Board Members. The Long-range Financial Sub-committee met several times since last summer and developed a series of recommendations, whereas it was decided to target amounts to balance the budget and provide a proportional allocation of target amounts, to identify a second round of service reductions to target trade-off options, to fully explore all other options to balance the budget and to create a timeline. The three key factors of the budget options were to present a Level-funded Budget for FY09 with FY08 appropriations, to present a Town Manager's Recommended Budget, and to present Department requests. The Town Level Service Budget for FY09 using FY08 appropriations is \$133,966,089 and the Town Manager's Recommended Budget for FY09 is \$137,688,316. The Town Manager's recommended cuts for FY-09 include not filling 14 new positions (\$755,347); a decrease in overtime/payroll (\$403,739); and a reduction of \$657,322 in operating expenses.

The Town Manager said the source of revenue funds shows a slight increase in Chapter 70 funds, level-funded revenue from the Lottery, a decrease in local receipts and anticipated lower new growth revenue. The Town Manager further explained the proposed use of free cash and the appropriated amount for the stabilization fund. The Boards discussed the bond rating by Moody's (how they rate and what they look at) and investigating an alternative company. The Town Manager's Capital Improvement Projects recommendation for FY09 totals \$21,072,500 and includes borrowing for improvements to Bancroft School but does not factor in the cost of the feasibility study for Bancroft. The Boards discussed options for potential revenue and cost saving measures.

**III. FY-2009 Recommended Budgets (cont'd)**

**FY-2009 School Department Budget**

Superintendent, Dr. Claudia Bach, began her presentation by distributing copies of her budget message for FY-2009. The Preliminary Budget amount of \$61,072,689 represents an increase of 6.8% over last year. This is a Needs-based Budget to sustain existing programs and services; it does not include additional revenue for rebuilding or advancing. Dr. Bach's message

includes data on efforts by the Special Education Department to bring out-of-district students back to Andover by developing programs in-house at a much lower cost. The Level Services budget of \$60,524,672 is \$548,017 less than the Needs-based Budget, and would not be enough to cover the positions required for these programs nor would it cover the Regular Education requests necessary to maintain equity, to comply with high school course requirements and federal laws.

Dr. Bach said the a few of the major challenges facing the Andover Public Schools is the ever increasing cost of health care, and the continued reduction in State aid. In an effort to cover the cost of operations, the School Department has instituted fees for bussing, athletics, parking, and for after school activities. Federal Grant monies have decreased or totally eliminated; however, we have been fortunate to receive more than \$150,000 in private gifts and donations.

Bernie Tuttle said measures to achieve a revenue-based budget would include the loss of Athletics, cutting of extra curricular stipends, reductions in non-FTE positions, loss of academic stipends, level funding for supplies, and increased user fees. The two teaching contingency positions would be eliminated, as would the implementation of an Engineering Program at Wood Hill. The two Program Advisor positions for English and Social Studies at Andover High School would not be filled, instructional assistant hours would be reduced, and class sizes increased for a total reduction in costs of \$2,465,401.

The Boards discussed how the Andover School System would be impacted by the budgets presented. The Finance Committee will forward questions on the School budgets to Jon Stumpf, and the Board of Selectmen will send their questions to Selectman Stabile to be presented to the School Department Business Manager.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

A motion by Selectmen Stabile, seconded by Selectman Teichert, was made to adjourn the Tri-Board meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by School Committee member Dr. David Samuels and seconded by Tony James. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary